

CLAIMS:-

5 1. A mobile communications network for serving a plurality of
mobile terminals each capable of being coupled to the network,
wherein the network incorporates means for determining for each
mobile terminal accessing the network an operating protocol employed
10 by that terminal, and means for retrieving from a store a corresponding
operating protocol whereby to provide control instructions for the
network so as to enable communication with that terminal.

15 2. A mobile communications network adapted to service mobile
terminals having different operating protocols, the network including a
plurality of multimode base stations each capable of operating
selectively in at least some of said operating protocols and each having
means for interrogating a said mobile terminal so as to determine that
20 terminal's operating protocol, a store containing sets of operating
instructions one for each said protocol, base station control means for
controlling the operation of each said base station, and means
responsive to the determination of the operating protocol of a said
mobile terminal for downloading the corresponding set of operating
25 instructions from the store to the control means whereby to operate the
base station serving that mobile terminal in a mode consistent with that
operating protocol.

3. A network as claimed in claim 2, wherein each said base station
comprises a soft radio unit for providing radio communication to said
terminals, operating means, one for each said operating protocol, and
30 means for selectively enabling a said one of said operating means so
as to operate the base station in conformity with that operating protocol.

4. A network as claimed in claim 3, wherein at least some of said
mobile terminals have means for downloading of operating instructions
35 from the network.

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5. A method of operating a mobile communications network so as to service a plurality of terminals each capable of being coupled to the network, wherein the method includes storing a plurality of operating protocols for said terminals, determining for each terminal accessing the network an operating protocol employed by that terminal, and retrieving from the stored protocols a corresponding operating protocol whereby to provide control instructions for that terminal

5. A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the operating protocol employed by a mobile terminal requesting service is determined from the frequency of radio transmissions from that terminal.

6. A method as claimed in claim 5, and including downloading of operating software from the network to a said terminal.

7. A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein a said operating protocol is determined by negotiation between the network and a said mobile terminal.

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ADD A1